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REMARKS**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 2 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

The examiner has stated that claim 2 has the unexplained abbreviation "SSG." The abbreviation SSG appears in claim 1 and not claim 2, however claims 1 and 6 have been amended to replace "SSG" with the phrase for which it stands, "standard specific gravity" (see page 3, line 18 of the current application).

The examiner has stated that claim 3 contains improper Markush language. There is no Markush group in claim 3, however claim 2 has been amended to include the phrase "from the group consisting of."

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Kitahara et al. (U.S. 6,303,686) in view of Malhotra et al. (U.S. 4,837,267) or Morgan et al. (U.S. 4,952,630), and further in view of Ilardo et al. (U.S. 4,504,611) or Hochberg et al. (U.S. 4,564,650).

The present invention relates to polyamide compositions having decreased melt viscosity and good flame-retardant properties. Examples 2-9 and Comparative Examples 6-13 demonstrate that the use of the claimed non-melt processible fluoropolymer particles in flame retarded polyamide compositions surprisingly decreases the melt viscosity of the compositions relative to compositions that do not contain the non-melt processible fluoropolymer particles and does so without hurting the flame retardant properties of the compositions.

Kitahara et al. make no suggestion that the use of the non-melt-processible fluoropolymer particles having an SSG of less than about 2.22 and comprising a core of high molecular weight polytetrafluoroethylene and a shell of lower molecular weight polytetrafluoroethylene or modified polytetrafluoroethylene in flame-retarded polyamide compositions will produce compositions having decreased melt viscosity.

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There is no suggestion in Malhotra that the fluoropolymers described therein would be suitable for incorporation into polyamide compositions or that they would decrease the melt viscosity of flame retarded polyamide compositions without hurting their flame retardant properties. Thus one of skill in the art would have had no motivation to combine the teachings of Malhotra with those of Kitahara to arrive at the present invention.

There is no suggestion in Morgan et al. that the non-fibrillating fluoropolymers described therein could be used to decrease the melt viscosity of flame retarded polyamide compositions without hurting their flame retardant properties. Thus one of skill in the art would have had no motivation to combine the teachings of Morgan et al. with those of Kitahara to arrive at the present invention.

The present invention is thus believed to be non-obvious over the teachings of Kitahara et al. in view of Malhotra et al. or Morgan et al., and therefore also non-obvious over the teachings of Kitahara et al. in view of Malhotra et al. or Morgan et al. further in view of Ilardo et al. or Hochberg et al.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: February 23, 2006

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